

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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BILL DRAFT 2009-LRz-131B [v.3] (4/11)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)

4/12/2010 9:39:46 AM

Short Title: Joint Broadband Access Task Force.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Tolson.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT CREATING THE JOINT BROADBAND ACCESS TASK FORCE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) There is created the Joint Broadband Task Force (Task Force).
The purpose of the Task Force is to bring together public and private internet access providers, legislators, and others to:

- (1) Examine issues related to last mile broadband deployments in the State and to improving the rate at which the general public accesses high speed broadband.
- (2) Consider incentives and other funding mechanisms to advance last mile deployments.
- (3) Review the best and most cost effective ways to address the needs of communities and households that lack broadband access.
- (4) Consider any other matters relating to last mile broadband deployment in this State.

SECTION 1.(b) The Task Force shall consist of fifteen voting members appointed as follows:

- (1) Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, including four members of the House, one person who represents local exchange carriers, a representative of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and one person from the general public.
- (2) Seven members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, including four members of the Senate, one person who represents the voice over internet protocol industry, a representative of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and one person from the general public.
- (3) One member elected by a vote of the other fourteen members of the Task Force.

SECTION 1.(c) The State Chief Information Officer and a representative of the e-NC Authority shall serve as nonvoting ex-officio members of the Task Force.

SECTION 2 The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each appoint a cochair for the Task Force. The Task Force may contract for consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. Upon approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional and clerical staff to assist in the work of the Task Force. Clerical staff shall be furnished through the

1 offices of the House of Representatives' and the Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants.
2 The Task Force may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon
3 the approval of the Legislative Services Commission. The appointing authority shall fill
4 vacancies. The Task Force, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all the
5 powers provided under the provisions of G.S. 120-19 through G.S. 120-19.4, including the
6 power to request all officers, agents, agencies, and departments of the State to provide any
7 information, data, or documents within their possession, ascertainable from their records, or
8 otherwise available to them and the power to subpoena witnesses. Members of the Task Force
9 shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances as follows:

10 (1) Members of the General Assembly, at the rate established in G.S. 120-3.1.

11 (2) Members who are officials or employees of the State or of local government
12 agencies, at the rate established in G.S. 138-6.

13 (3) All other members, at the rate established in G.S. 138-5.

14 **SECTION 3.** The Task Force shall report to the 2013 General Assembly and shall
15 terminate upon filing its final report.

16 **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
17 Assembly the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 2010-2011 fiscal year to fund the
18 work of the Task Force.

19 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2011.